

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNCTAD IV: BACKGROUND PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE UN

1. REPRODUCED AS PARAGRAPH TWO OF THIS MESSAGE IS SUBJECT
UN PRESS RELEASE (TAD/661) DATED APRIL 28, 1976

2.QUOTE: UNCTAD IV TO MEET IN NAIROBI, 5-28
MAY 1976

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD SUBMITS HIS REPORT ON NEW DIRECTIONS
AND NEW STRUCTURES FOR TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT,
WHICH WILL MEET IN NAIROBI FROM 5 TO 28 MAY, WILL BRING TOGETHER
WELL OVER 2,000 PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING THE REPRESENTATIVES
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FROM THE 153 UNCTAD MEMBER STATES AND THE OBSERVERS FOR

NUMEROUS UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

JOMO KENYATTA, THE PRESIDENT OF KENYA, AND KURT WALDHEIM, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WILL BOTH ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE AT AN INAUGURATION CEREMONY ON THE MORNING OF 5 MAY IN THE KENYATTA CONFERENCE CENTRE ON HARAMBEE AVENUE.

ON THE SAME DAY, IN THE AFTERNOON, THE FIRST PLENARY MEETING WILL BE HELD. TRADITIONALLY, A UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ELECTS AS ITS PRESIDENT A PERSONALITY FROM THE HOST COUNTRY.

AT ITS FIRST PLENARY MEETING, THE CONFERENCE ALSO WILL ADOPT ITS PROVISIONAL AGENDA LISTING 19 ITEMS.

GAMANI COREA, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD, THEN WILL INTRODUCE HIS REPORT, ENTITLED "NEW DIRECTIONS AND NEW STRUCTURES FOR TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT" (DOCUMENT TD/183).

" A RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST BECOME NOT A VICTIM OF THE CURRENT CRISIS BUT PART OF THE GLOBAL EFFORT TO OVERCOME IT." IN MAKING THIS APPEAL MR. COREA POINTS OUT THAT THE TRAVAILS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN ONLY AGGRAVATE THE PRESENT GLOBAL CRISIS BY FURTHER DAMPENING GLOBAL DEMAND. AN AUGMENTATION OF THEIR EXTERNAL RESOURCES HOWEVER, WOULD STIMULATE THE RECOVERY PROCESS SINCE THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE DISCURSED ON IMPORTS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

THE ISSUES BEFORE THE CONFERENCE REFLECT THE CRYSTALLIZING OF A LONG PERIOD OF INTERNATIONAL DEBATE ON DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH IN SEVERAL CASES, THE DECISIONS CALLED FOR ARE INITIAL STEPS ONLY, THEY ARE IN THE DIRECTION OF ESTABLISHING A GLOBAL SYSTEM THAT WOULD BETTER SERVE THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WHOLE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. TAKEN TOGETHER, THEY INCORPORATE SOME OF THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF A NEW SYSTEM AS OUTLINED BY THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS SIXTH AND SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSIONS.

MR. COREA OBSERVED THAT THERE ARE, ON THE ONE HAND, THE ISSUES WHERE THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE CAN HAVE AN EARLY UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPACT, AND HELP RELIEVE THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE BURDENS OF THE CURRENT CRISIS. THE DECISIONS CALLED FOR IN THE FIELDS OF COMMODITIES, DEBT RELIEF, BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS SUPPORT, AND ASSISTANCE TO SPECIAL CATEGORIES OF COUNTRIES FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY AND TOGETHER WOULD ESTABLISH THE FOUNDATION OF AN IMMEDIATE "ECONOMIC SUPPORT SYSTEM" FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. "THE SETTING UP OF SUCH A SYSTEM COULD BE ONE OF THE MAJOR RESULTS OF THE FOURTH SESSION", THE UNCTAD SECRETARY-GENERAL

COMMENTS.

MR. COREA SPECIFIES ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ISSUES WHOSE IMPACT WOULD UNFOLD OVER A LONGER PERIOD BUT WHERE THE CONFERENCE COULD LAUNCH SOME MAJOR INITIATIVES: AN AGREEMENT ON THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY TO GOVERN TRADE IN MANUFACTURES THAT CONSIDERABLY WIDENS PAST APPROACHES, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRAMEWORK IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY THAT WOULD PLACE A NEW EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FRAMEWORK IN THE FIELD OF MONEY AND FINANCE, THE ARTICULATION OF A COHERENT SYSTEM OF CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A MAJOR DIMENSION OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ORIENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF TRADE AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD EMPHASIZES THAT THE BUILDING OF A NEW SYSTEM CANNOT BE COMPLETED AT A SINGLE CONFERENCE AND THAT THERE WILL BE A CONTINUED NEED FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP. THE POLICIES ENUNCIATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL NEED TO BE TRANSLATED INTO CONCRETE ACTION THROUGH THE FURTHER NEGOTIATION OF SPECIFIC ISSUES IN ALL THEIR TECHNICAL COMPLEXITY. IF UNCTAD IS TO SERVE ADEQUATELY " AS A NEGOTIATING ARM" OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OF THE UNITED NATIONS, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE GREATLY STRENGTHENED, AND EVEN TRANSFORMED. THEREFORE, THE DECISIONS ON THE INSTITUTIONAL ISSUE COULD BE OF CRUCIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER.

IN SEPARATE CHAPTERS OF HIS REPORT, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL COVERS IN SOME DETAIL THE PROBLEMS ON THE AGENDA AND INDICATES IN EACH INSTANCE THE TASK BEFORE THE CONFERENCE AS HE SEES IT. HIS SUGGESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE MAIN AGENDA ITEMS ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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INDICATED BELOW.

COMMODITIES

THE CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE MAJOR DECISIONS ON THE COMMODITY PROBLEM. THERE IS A GROWING CONSENSUS ON THE URGENT NEED FOR REMEDIAL ACTION BUT THE CONFERENCE HAS TO TAKE A DECISION ON THE TYPE OF ACTION THAT IS REQUIRED.

IT HAS TO DECIDE WHETHER ACTION IN THIS FIELD SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE BASED ON A FRAGMENTARY APPROACH, AS IN THE PAST, THAT STRESSES THE NEED FOR AN EXAMINATION OF COMMODITY PROBLEMS ON AN ISOLATED, CASE-BY-CASE, BASIS WITHOUT AN EFFECTIVE GUIDING FRAMEWORK OF PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES, MEASURES AND TECHNIQUES, AND COMMITMENTS TO ACHIEVE RESULTS -- AND

WHICH IS SUPPLEMENTED BY SCHEMES OF FINANCIAL AID THAT DO NOT INVOLVE CHANGES IN PREVAILING STRUCTURES AND MECHANISMS. IT HAD TO DECIDE BETWEEN SUCH AN APPROACH AND THAT CONTAINED IN THE INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR COMMODITIES PROPOSED BY THE UNCTAD SECRETARY-GENERAL, WHICH AIMS AT IMPARTING STRENGTH AND STABILITY TO COMMODITY MARKETS THEMSELVES, AT OVERCOMING PAST WEAKNESSES AND AT INITIATING A PROCESS WHICH COULD RESULT IN BETTER STRUCTURES TO GOVERN TRADE IN COMMODITIES.

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IF THE CONFERENCE ENDORSES THE PROPOSALS IN THE INTEGRATED PROGRAMME, IT WOULD NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE PHASES INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME.

IN THE FIRST PHASE, AT THE NAIROBI CONFERENCE, A DECISION WOULD BE NEEDED REGARDING THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME, PARTICULARLY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STOCKS COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF

COMMODITIES AND THE SETTING UP OF A COMMON FINANCING FUND.

IN THE SECOND PHASE, AFTER THE CONFERENCE, THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE SIMULTANEOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN AN AGREED TIME SPAN ON THE DETAILS OF THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE COMMON FUND, AND ON THE PRICE AND OTHER OBJECTIVES OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES, OR GROUPS OF COMMODITIES, AND THE PRACTICAL MEANS OF ACHIEVING THEM.

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MANUFACTURES

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A MORE BROADLY-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE GOALS SET BY THE SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO, A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME FOR PROMOTING THE EXPORTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN MANUFACTURES NEEDS TO BE ADOPTED, TOGETHER WITH COMPLEMENTARY MEASURES DESIGNED TO REDUCE THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE AND LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR AN INDEPENDENT AND VIABLE INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY IN THOSE COUNTRIES.

THE CONFERENCE SHOULD CONSIDER ADOPTING A BROADER POLICY APPROACH THAN HITHERTO TO PROMOTING THE MANUFACTURED EXPORTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS APPROACH SHOULD COVER NOT ONLY IMPROVEMENTS IN MARKET ACCESS, SUPPORTED BY APPROPRIATE LONG-TERM INDUSTRIAL ADJUSTMENT MEASURES IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND MORE EFFECTIVE REGULATION OF RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES AND OF THE ACTIVITIES OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS, BUT ALSO ACTION BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THEIR ABILITY TO SUPPLY AND INCREASED VOLUME AND VARIETY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS TO THE WORLD MARKET.

MONEY AND FINANCE

FIRST, THE CONFERENCE SHOULD DECIDE ON ACTION TO RELIEVE THE CRITICAL DEBT PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN PARTICULAR, A MORATORIUM ON , OR DEFERMENT OF, DEBT-SERVICE PAYMENTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THE COUNTRIES MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS. CONSIDERATION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL FUND OR OTHER EQUIVALENT MEANS TO REFINANCE THE COMMERCIAL DEBTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SINCE THIS WOULD ALLEVIATE THE IMMEDIATE DEBT-SERVICING DIFFICULTIES OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED IN SO FAR AS THEY ARE MAINLY FROM A BUNCHING OF SHORT-TERM LOANS.

IN ADDITION, THE CONFERENCE SHOULD CONSIDER ADOPTING GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ALLEVIATING THE DEBT BURDEN OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PRINCIPLES WHICH COULD GUIDE DEBT RENEGOTIATION FOR

INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONNEXION, THE CONFERENCE HAS
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BEEN REQUESTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ITS RESOLUTION
3362 (S-VII), TO CONSIDER "THE NEED FOR, AND POSSIBILITY OF,
CONVENING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE A CONFERENCE OF MAJOR DONOR,
CREDITOR AND DEBTOR COUNTRIES TO DEVISE WAYS AND MEANS TO
MITIGATE" THE DEBT BURDEN OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

SECOND, THE CONFERENCE SHOULD REACH AGREEMENT ON A PROGRAMME
OF ACTION DESIGNED TO FINANCE THE EXCEPTIONAL PAYMENTS DEFICITS
NOW FACING MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SUCH A PROGRAMME WOULD
NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE MECHANISMS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
ARE MUCH MORE ADEQUATE THAN THOSE NOW IN OPERATION, BOTH
AS REGARDS THE FOLUME OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND AS REGARDS THE
TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON WHICH FINANCE IS PROVIDED.

THIRD, DECISIONS ARE REQUIRED BY THE CONFERENCE TO ENSURE A
MUCH GREATER, AND MORE DEPENDABLE, FLOW OF LONG-TERM
FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONNEXION,
CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE ADOPTION OF MORE AUTO-
MATIC MECHANISMS FOR THE PROVISION OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE -- SUCH AS THE LINK TO THE CREATION OF SPECIAL
DRAWING RIGHTS (SDR) FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND.

FINALLY, THE CONFERENCE SHOULD REACH AGREEMENT ON THE ESSENTIAL
FEATURES OF A THOROUGHGOIN REFORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL
MONETARY SYSTEM, SO THAT IT BECOMES MUCH MORE SUPPORTIVE THAN
HITHERTO OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AS WELL AS TRULY UNIVERSAL
AND CONTRIBUTING TO A SMOOTHLY-FUNCTIONING AND EXPANDING
WORLD ECONOMY.

TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

DECISIVE ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE IS NEEDED TO ESTABLISH THE
BASIS OF A COMPREHENSIVE ATTACK ON THE PROBLEM OF THE TECHNOL-
OGICAL DEPENDENCE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE CONFERENCE
SHOULD CONSIDER ADOPTING A PROGRAMME OF ACTION IN THIS AREA
WHICH TRANSLATES AGREEMENTS ON POLICIES INTO CONCRETE
INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY SUCH AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL
AND SUBREGIONAL CENTRES FOR THE TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT
OF TECHNOLOGY. IN THIS REGARD, THE CONFERENCE SHOULD
CONSIDER MEASURES FOR STRENGTHENING THE ADVISORY AND
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS OF UNCTAD IN THE FIELD OF
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TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

THE CONFERENCE SHOULD ALSO DECIDE ON THE LEGAL STATUS, AS WELL AS THE MODALITIES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT GOVERNING THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY SYSTEM.

SPECIAL MEASURES FOR DISADVANTAGED COUNTRIES

THE TASK BEFORE THE CONFERENCE IS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A SET OF SPECIFIC POLICY MEASURES WHICH WILL PROVIDE BOTH IMMEDIATE BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS SUPPORT FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND A SOUND FOUNDATION FOR THEIR SUBSEQUENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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IT IS FOR THE CONFERENCE TO REVIEW THE URGENT NEEDS OF THE

LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO AGREE ON A FUTURE PROGRAMME OF SPECIFIC MEASURES DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE CLOSE CO-OPERATION AND JOINT PLANNING BY THESE COUNTRIES AND THEIR TRANSIT NEIGHBOURS AND TO ELICIT LARGER FLOWS OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND THUS TO MITIGATE THE HEAVY ADDITIONAL BURDEN OF TRANSIT COSTS THAT INFLUENCES THE DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS OF THESE VERY POOR COUNTRIES.

THE CONFERENCE SHOULD CONSIDER ADOPTING A PROGRAMME FOR MEETING THESE SPECIAL PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY OF THE GEOGRAPHICALLY MORE DISADVANTAGED DEVELOPING ISLAND COUNTRIES. SUCH A PROGRAMME SHOULD PROVIDE FOR EXPANDED FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE FOR DISASTER PREVENTION AS WELL AS INSURANCE AGAINST THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF NATURAL DISASTERS, AND SUPPORT FOR

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IMPROVED TRANSPORT AND FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION.

ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE SHOULD BECOME AN ESSENTIAL AND INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF A GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY. AS SUCH, THE EFFORTS OF THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES TO EVOLVE SUCH A SYSTEM SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AT VARIOUS POINTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

A DETAILED PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD WAS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 77 AT MANILA IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR. IT IS FOR THE CONFERENCE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED, IN SUPPORT OF THIS PROGRAMME AND OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT IT.

TRADE WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

THE CONFERENCE SHOULD CONSIDER ADOPTING A SERIES OF MUTUALLY REINFORCING MEASURES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN TRADE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES HAVING DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS, TAKING PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE INTERESTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

IN THE SPHERE OF TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE A NEW, COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH SHOULD BE PROMOTED, EMBRACING VARIOUS FIELDS OF CO-OPERATION. THIS SHOULD COVER SUCH SUBJECTS AS ASSESSMENT OF THE LONG-TERM PROSPECTS FOR TRADE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION; MEASURES TO EXPAND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THROUGH CREDIT FACILITIES ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS; A FULLER UTILIZATION BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE FACILITIES WITHIN THE COUNCIL FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (CMEA), SUCH AS THE SYSTEM OF MULTILATERAL SETTLEMENT IN TRANSFERABLE ROUBLES AND THE CREDIT FACILITIES OF THE SPECIAL FUND OF THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK.

THE CONFERENCE SHOULD ALSO SEEK TO PROMOTE TRIPARTITE
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INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION INVOLVING SOCIALIST COUNTRIES,
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND ENTERPRISES IN THE DEVELOPED
MARKET-ECONOMY COUNTRIES.

THE CONFERENCE SHOULD CONSIDER THE INTENSIFICATION OF UNCTAD'S
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD, AND AN
IMPROVEMENT OF THE PRESENT CONSULTATION PROCEDURES WITH UNCTAD
RELATED TO TRADE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

THE CONFERENCE SHOULD DEFINE A STRENGTHENED ROLE FOR UNCTAD
AS THE SPECIALIZED INSTRUMENT WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS FOR
DELIBERATION AND NEGOTIATION IN THE FIELD OF TRADE, DEVELOPMENT
AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. TO THIS END, IT
SHOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY. FURTHERMORE, THE CONFERENCE SHOULD TAKE
DECISIONS AND ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR THE REFORM AND
RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MACHINERY OF UNCTAD IN ORDER TO ENABLE
IT TO PERFORM ITS NEW ROLE EFFECTIVELY AND, FINALLY, IT
SHOULD REVIEW AND RESPOND TO THE LONGER-TERM INSTITUTIONAL
NEEDS IN THE WHOLE FIELD OF TRADE, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION.

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